



A Message from **Mayor Sharpe James**

Newark, New Jersey 07102
(201) 733-6400

THE HON. SHARPE JAMES

EIGHTH ANNUAL
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1994

NEWARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBER



Together, we can make a difference!

REVEREND CLERGY, CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT GARY HARRIS, MEMBERS OF THE NEWARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DEPUTY MAYORS QUINTANA AND NARVAEZ, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR GLENN GRANT, CORPORATION COUNSEL MICHELLE HOLLAR-GREGORY, POLICE DIRECTOR WILLIAM CELESTER, DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

GOOD EVENING AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUE ATTENDANCE TONIGHT. THIS IS MY EIGHT STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS. IT IS ALSO A TIME TO EVALUATE OUR STATED GOALS. TO REVIEW OUR MISSION AND TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE THAT WILL PLACE NEWARK AND OUR CITIZENS ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD WITH OUR AFFLUENT, SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES.

WE MUST BE ABLE TO COMPETE IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN THE MARKET PLACE. NEWARK MUST BE A CITY OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY.

TONIGHT, AS WE ENTER A NEW YEAR AND FACE NEW CHALLENGES, AND A NATIONAL CALL FOR WELFARE REFORM, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER IN ENDING A DISPROPORTIONATE DEPENDENCY ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. FOR 1994. THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (M.O.E.T.) MUST FACE THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING INCREASED JOB TRAINING SKILLS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED AND MOVING A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OUR POPULATION FROM WELFARE TO WORKFARE. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO END LOW ACHIEVEMENT AND A HIGH DROP OUT RATE IN OUR TROUBLED SCHOOL SYSTEM. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO END CAR THEFT. CRIME AND DRUG TRAFFICKING AND A DISRESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS AND PROPERTY OF OTHERS. WE MUST MOVE FROM

INDIVIDUAL DEPENDENCE TO INDEPENDENCE; FROM SEEKING HELP TO SELF HELP, FROM ACTS OF HOSTILITY AND CONFRONTATION TO ACTS OF COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION.

WE MUST PREPARE OUR CHILDREN AND CITY TO COMPETE IN A LOCAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMY. THERE CAN BE NO DEBATE THAT OUR CHILDREN MUST LEARN AND BE PREPARED FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE. FOR EVERY DAY. NEWARK IS COMPETING WITH OTHER CITIES TO ATTRACT NEW RESIDENTS. NEW JOBS AND NEW TAX RATABLES. WE COMPETE IN EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH CARE, BEAUTIFICATION AND THE DELIVERY OF BASIC MUNICIPAL SERVICES. WE COMPETE TO BE A QUALITY CITY; TO BE A PLACE THAT WE ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT, I AM ASKING EVERY PROPERTY OWNER TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO CLEAN, MAKE THE NECESSARY REPAIRS AND MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY FREE OF HOUSING CODE VIOLATIONS. THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SUBURBS AND NEWARK. FAR TOO MANY OF US, NOT ALL OF US, NEED TO TAKE MORE PRIDE IN THE WAY WE LIVE. AND, TENANTS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME PRIDE AS IF THEY OWNED THE PROPERTY THEY RENT. (MI CASA ES SU CASA). MY HOUSE IS YOUR HOUSE!

TO IMPROVE THE APPEARANCE OF ALL COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, I AM ASKING THE LAND USE DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR UNIFORM SIGNS FOR ALL BUSINESSES. WE ARE TIRED OF HAND MADE, UNPROFESSIONAL AND OUT RIGHT RIDICULOUS LOOKING SIGNS ON DISPLAY IN FRONT OF TOO MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES. IT

CHEAPENS OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, CREATES AN EYESORE AND REDUCES OUR PROPERTY VALUES. I AM CALLING FOR OUR LAND USE DEPARTMENT TO CORRECT THIS EYESORE. WE MUST BE A CLEAN, ATTRACTIVE AND SAFE CITY TO BE COMPETITIVE. THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE. THIS IS OUR MISSION. AND WE MUST UNITE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE. AND WE MUST NOT FAIL.

BUT. THE ROAD AHEAD IS NOT AN EASY ONE. OR TO USE THE WORDS OF AMERICAN POET ROBERT FROST:

"TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOODS. AND I-
I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY.
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE."

IN MY LIFE.

AS WE MEET TONIGHT. ONE ROAD SHOULD NOT LEAD TO A STATE TAKEOVER OF OUR SCHOOLS. BUT THERE SHOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY TAKE-OVER BY CHANGING THE SYSTEM. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL HAVE EXPLORED SOME VIABLE OPTIONS TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM. ONE OPTION WOULD INVOLVE HAVING FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION--ONE FROM EACH WARD-- ELECTED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS OR IN NOVEMBER'S GENERAL ELECTION. THIS WOULD ENSURE A LARGER TURNOUT AS OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT SEVEN TO NINE PERCENT PARTICIPATION IN BOARD ELECTIONS. THE FOUR REMAINING MEMBERS WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR. WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. UNDER THIS PLAN. WE WOULD HAVE TRUE WARD REPRESENTATION. ALONG WITH THE ABILITY TO SELECT

HIGHLY QUALIFIED NEWARK RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD. TO AVOID A STATE TAKE-OVER WE MUST BECOME INVOLVED AND SEE THAT OUR CHILDREN RECEIVE A OUALITY EDUCATION. FOR THEIR FUTURE IS OUR FUTURE. TO DO NOTHING AND TO OFFER NOTHING TO CORRECT THE ILLS OF OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM IS TO INVITE A STATE TAKE-OVER. THE CHOICE IS OURS! WE MUST ACT NOW.

AS WE MEET TONIGHT. NEW JERSEY HAS A NEW GOVERNOR. CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN. THUS. THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS STATE. ITS GOVERNOR. STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY ARE CONTROLLED BY REPUBLICANS. AND THE OUESTION I AM MOST OFTEN ASKED. IS HOW NEWARK. A CITY THAT IS OVERWHELMINGLY DEMOCRATIC AND URBAN. WILL SURVIVE UNDER HER NEW LEADERSHIP. THE UNANSWERED OUESTION BEING: WHAT PROGRAMS WILL BE CUT. WHAT SERVICES DENIED AND WHO WILL SUFFER BY HER PLAN TO CUT TAXES BY 30%? A OUESTION OF WHETHER OUR URBAN CITIES. WHO NOW HURT THE MOST. WILL SUFFER THE MOST?

I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNOR WHITMAN. WHETHER SHE WON IN NEWARK OR NOT. IS NOW GOVERNOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE: ALL NEW JERSEY: RICH AND POOR: BLACK AND WHITE: URBAN. SUBURBAN AND RURAL: DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS. AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH HER IN IMPROVING THE OUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL NEW JERSEY CITIZENS. WE ARE SEEKING PARITY NOT CHARITY. WORKFARE NOT WELFARE WE WANT TO BE PART OF THE NEW JERSEY FAMILY SHE SPOKE OF. WE WISH TO EXTEND A HAND OF COOPERATION.

AND WE ARE MINDFUL THAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW THAT "WHAT YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF MY PEOPLE, YOU DO FOR ME."

ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, PRESIDENT CLINTON, WILL TEST HIS LEADERSHIP BY CALLING FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE REFORM. AND, IN AGREEING THAT CRIME AND VIOLENCE ARE THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM IN AMERICA. THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR THE PASSAGE OF A NATIONAL CRIME BILL. THIS BILL, IF PASSED, WILL PROVIDE 100,000 NEW POLICE OFFICERS ON THE STREETS OF AMERICA. MORE JAIL CELLS FOR VIOLENT OFFENDERS. BOOT CAMPS AND A STRONG LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORT TO COMBAT CRIME. YET, THERE ARE MANY CRITICS OF THE CRIME BILL WHO CHARGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BUILD MORE JAILS. BUT OFFER MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES. IMPROVED EDUCATION AND MORE QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY. A WAR ON POVERTY PHILOSOPHY.

TO ANSWER THEM. I WISH TO POSE THE QUESTION. WHAT IS WRONG WITH DOING BOTH? ONE PROGRAM SHOULD NOT CANCEL OUT THE OTHER. YES. SOME PERSONS DO NEED HELP. BUT THERE ARE SOME HABITUAL AND VIOLENT OFFENDERS WHO DO NEED TO BE LOCKED UP.

IN MAKING PUBLIC SAFETY OUR TOP PRIORITY. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT WE HAVE HIRED MORE POLICE. AS PROMISED. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO HIRE. TRAIN AND PLACE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS THE BEST POLICE

OFFICERS AVAILABLE. IN NEWARK, WE WILL NOT SURRENDER ONE CORNER, BLOCK, HOUSE OR NEIGHBORHOOD TO THOSE WHO DISRESPECT THE RIGHTS AND PROPERTY OF OTHERS. WE WILL NOT TOLERATE OR EXCUSE LAWBREAKERS IN THIS CITY UNDER MY LEADERSHIP.

IN FACT. NEWARK'S STRONG RECORD OF INNOVATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF POLICE DIRECTOR WILLIAM CELESTER. RESULTED IN NEWARK BEING ONE OF ONLY SIX BIG CITIES TO RECEIVE A \$2 MILLION GRANT FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON THAT WILL PUT 24 ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS ON OUR STREETS. I AM ALSO PROUD TO REPORT THAT MORE POLICE HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE POLICE ACADEMY DURING MY ADMINISTRATION THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN THE CITY'S HISTORY. BUT WE NEED TO DO EVEN MORE. WE HAVE ADOPTED COMMUNITY POLICING. AND WITH THE HELP OF OUR TARGET TEAM. WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING AUTO THEFTS BY OVER 30 PERCENT IN THE PAST YEAR. WE HAVE UPGRADED OUR COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH SYSTEM. WE HAVE PUT COMMUNITY POLICE VANS IN EVERY PRECINCT AND FORGED STRONG CITIZEN LINKS THROUGH OUR DARE DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM. CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY AND AUXILIARY POLICE PROGRAMS.

WE ARE ALSO PROUD OF THE NEWARK FIGHTING BACK PROGRAM. WHICH IS A HIGHLY COMMENDABLE. GRASS ROOTS EFFORT TO BUILD NEIGHBORHOODS AND ENCOURAGE COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITY RESIDENTS TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST DRUGS AND ALCOHOL. THIS ORGANIZATION BRINGS TOGETHER

THE CHURCH, COMMUNITY-BASED INSTITUTIONS, BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, GOVERNMENT AND RESIDENTS TO STRENGTHEN AND REVITALIZE THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS. AND IN SO DOING. SENDS A MESSAGE TO THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT THAT WE ARE "FIGHTING BACK." BY COMING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON GOOD. WE ARE TAKING BACK OUR STREETS AND OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND WILL NOT TOLERATE CRIME AND DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THANK YOU FIGHTING BACK FOR TAKING A STAND AND HELPING TO REBUILD NEWARK.

I URGE ALL CITIZENS TO PLEASE CALL THE NEWARK FIGHTING BACK OFFICE AT 33 WASHINGTON STREET AND BECOME INVOLVED IN THE WAR AGAINST ALCOHOL AND DRUGS. FOR GOVERNMENT CANNOT DO IT ALONE. WE NEED YOUR GUIDANCE AND HELP.

BY WORKING TOGETHER WE MUST SEND A MESSAGE THAT YOU CANNOT ROB. INJURE. SELL DRUGS. RAPE OR KILL SOMEONE WITHOUT BEING PENALIZED. YOU CANNOT STEAL OR CARJACK AN AUTOMOBILE. DESTROY PROPERTY OR RUN OVER SOMEONE AND SIMPLY WALK AWAY WITHOUT FACING THE CONSEQUENCES. IF YOU DO THE CRIME. BE PREPARED TO DO THE TIME!

AND ALL OF US MUST JOIN IN THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO REMOVE ILLEGAL GUNS FROM SOCIETY. THIS IS THE MISSION OF THE NEWARK GUN REDEMPTION PROGRAM. WE ARE ASKING INDIVIDUALS TO TURN IN GUNS IN EXCHANGE FOR A 50 DOLLAR GIFT CERTIFICATE AND TWO TICKETS TO A NEW JERSEY NETS GAME. WE WISH TO SALUTE MODELL SPORTING GOODS. KATZIN UNIFORMS AND THE NEW JERSEY NETS FOR SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAM.

SOME SAY THAT THIS PROGRAM IS ONLY FLUFF AND REAL CRIMINALS ARE NOT GOING TO TURN IN THEIR UZIES OR WEAPONS FOR MERCHANDISE OR MONEY. "WE ARE JUST WASTING OUR TIME." THEY SAY.

WELL. FOR OUR CRITICS. MY RESPONSE IS A SIMPLE ONE. IF OUR NEWARK GUN REDEMPTION PROGRAM CAN COLLECT "ONE GUN" THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN USED TO TAKE A LIFE. OUR PROGRAM IS A HUGE SUCCESS. FOR WE VALUE EACH AND EVERY LIFE. AND THE LIFE WE SAVE COULD BE OUR OWN OR THAT OF A LOVED ONE.

THE PRESIDENT. AS YOU KNOW. IS CALLING FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM. HERE IN NEWARK. OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE MUST CONTINUE AS THEY DEBATE THE ISSUE IN WASHINGTON. OUR HEALTH AND WELFARE INITIATIVES FOR 1994 INCLUDE A TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION/EDUCATION PROGRAM TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM THAT HAS REEMERGED IN URBAN AREAS; OUR CONTINUED USE OF FEDERAL AND LOCAL RESOURCES FOR LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT; AND AN INCREASE IN RYAN WHITE FUNDING FOR AIDS TREATMENT AND PREVENTION; ALSO A CONTINUED STRONG EFFORT TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS; PRE-NATAL AND INFANT CARE; AND DAY CARE WHICH IS A NECESSITY FOR WORKING PARENTS.

AS WE CONTINUE TO LOOK AHEAD. THE YEAR 1994 WILL SEE THE BEGINNING AND COMPLETION OF MANY. MAJOR PROJECTS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE OUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR CITY.

THIS SUMMER. OUR NEW CITY ROLLER SKATING RINK WILL OPEN IN

BRANCH BROOK PARK. THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS LIFETIME SPORT. FOR SOME OF US OVER 40. WE WILL BE ABLE TO REMINISCE ABOUT PART OF OUR YOUTH SPENT AT TWIN CITY. DREAMLAND OR THE OLYMPIC PARK SKATING RINK. WILL WE EVER FORGET WHEN THE SIGN READ. "COUPLES ONLY." AND WE HAD TO FIND THE COURAGE TO ASK SOMEONE TO SKATE? OR THE FEAR THAT WE MIGHT TRIP AND FALL ON TOP OF OUR PARTNER? WHAT GREAT FUN WE HAD! AND NOW A RICH PART OF OUR HISTORY IS COMING BACK. WE ARE GOING ROLLER SKATING AGAIN IN THE CITY OF NEWARK! I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE TOM D'ALESSIO AND THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THIS JOINT PROJECT.

WE ALSO ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK TO OBTAIN ONE OF THEIR FACILITIES TO CONVERT BACK TO A FAMILY BOWLING CENTER. WE PLAN TO BRING BACK FAMILY BOWLING IN THE CITY OF NEWARK.

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC) IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. AND THE ISSUE OF THE CEMETERY AND REINTERMENT OF BODIES IS BEING ADDRESSED. THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IS A HISTORY-MAKING. CULTURAL PROJECT THAT IS CHANGING THE IMAGE OF NEWARK. AND IN CONCERT WITH OUR MUCH HERALDED LIBRARY AND MUSEUM. WILL REESTABLISH NEWARK AS THE ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER OF THE STATE. WHAT A FITTING TRIBUTE FOR SOME OF OUR PAST AND PRESENT STARS SUCH AS SARAH VAUGHAN. MELBA MOORE. CONNIE FRANCIS. TISHA CAMPBELL (APPEARING IN HOUSE PARTY I OR BOOMERANG AND NOW CO-STARRING IN "MARTIN"). GLORIA GAYNOR. SAVION GLOVER-THE TAP DANCE KID. CISSY AND WHITNEY HOUSTON. JOHN AMOS. PHILIP ROTH. AMIRI

BARAKA AND STEPHEN CRANE, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF DEBATE, THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NOW HAS PLANS ON THE DRAWING BOARD AND IS PREPARING TO BUILD A NEW FEDERAL POST OFFICE ANNEX ON SPRINGFIELD AVENUE. THE OLD SPRINGFIELD AVENUE POST OFFICE, WHICH CURRENTLY IS A PART OF THE K. HOVNANIAN SOCIETY HILL AT UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, WILL BE CLOSED AND OTHER LOCAL BRANCHES WILL BE RENOVATED AS PART OF A MASTER PLAN TO UPGRADE OUR POSTAL SERVICES.

IN 1994. FINAL PLANS WILL BE DRAFTED FOR THE ROUTE 280 DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR AND A BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT THAT WILL FEATURE A NEW, TREE-LINED BOULEVARD LEADING FROM THE 280 EXIT ONTO AND ALONG FIRST STREET TO OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. A SECOND PHASE WILL CONNECT TO DOWNTOWN.

AS HOME TO 24,000 STUDENTS, WHO ATTEND ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE, NEWARK RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY, NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SETON HALL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, NEWARK IS TRULY A COLLEGE TOWN. JUST THINK OF THE TALENT THAT 24,000 STUDENTS BRING TO THE CITY OF NEWARK. A BETTER QUESTION IS, HOW CAN WE USE THIS TALENT IN OUR REVITALIZATION EFFORTS?

IN ADDITION TO HOUSING THE NEW JERSEY LITERARY HALL OF FAME AT NJIT, NEWARK, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ALSO WILL BE HOME FOR A MAJOR SCIENCE PARK. THIS HIGH TECH, COMMERCIAL VENTURE WILL BRING TOGETHER THE GREATEST MINDS IN THE WORLD TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

AFTER MANY SETBACKS. FRUSTRATION AND HARDSHIPS. TWO MAJOR PROMISES WILL BE FULFILLED IN 1994. FIRST AND FOREMOST. THE ABANDONED. DEBRIS-STREWN COLUMBUS HOMES--A HAVEN FOR SQUATTERS AND DRUGS. A HORRIBLE EYESORE AND REMINDER OF OUR PAST FAILURES--WILL BE DEMOLISHED NEXT MONTH ON SUNDAY. MARCH 6TH. AIRPLANES. TRAINS. CARS. BUSES AND EVERYTHING IN THE AREA WILL BE STOPPED BY THE STATE AND LOCAL POLICE AS FOUR OF THE EIGHT BUILDINGS FALL AND THE OTHER FOUR WILL COME DOWN A FEW MONTHS LATER. WE MUST STUDY WHERE THE BRICKS FALL FOR SAFETY PURPOSES.

TO FURTHER CELEBRATE THIS REALITY AND THE REMOVAL OF A MAJOR BLIGHT TO NEWARK'S IMAGE. I WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE ST. LUCY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. AND ESPECIALLY MONSIGNOR JOSEPH GRANATO. WHO DELIVERED THE INVOCATION TONIGHT. WHICH WILL START BUILDING BEAUTIFUL. ONE FAMILY HOMES ON THE VACANT LAND ADJACENT TO COLUMBUS HOMES. OUR NEW CHALLENGE WILL BE DECIDING WHAT TO BUILD ON THE COLUMBUS HOMES SITE AFTER THE DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF THE DEBRIS. BEING ADJACENT TO THE EXPANDING BROAD STREET ERIE LACKAWANNA STATION MAKES THIS A VALUABLE PIECE OF REAL ESTATE FOR DEVELOPMENT. I ASK YOU. THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK. WHAT SHOULD BE BUILT ON THIS

SITE? I WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK AND GUIDANCE.

AS WE MEET TONIGHT, NEW AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING HAS TRANSFORMED NEIGHBORHOODS IN EVERY WARD OF OUR CITY. A QUICK SAMPLING WOULD TAKE US TO THE NORTH WARD AND THE TIFFANY TOWNHOUSES AND RENTAL UNITS AT THE FORMER SITE OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS TIFFANY JEWELRY FACTORY. OR WE COULD VISIT THE WILSON AVENUE TOWERS OR THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY IN THE EAST WARD; J.P. AFFORDABLE HOUSING'S OWNER-OCCUPIED. DUPLEXES IN THE CENTRAL AND WEST WARDS; THE AMERICAN DREAM HOUSES IN THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL WARDS; THE AWARD-WINNING K. HOVNANIAN SOCIETY HILL AT UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. WHICH WILL SOON HAVE ITS OWN CLUBHOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. TENNIS COURTS AND A QUALITY NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING MALL.

WE ALSO WILL INITIATE AN EXTERIOR REHABILITATION LOW INTEREST (3%) LOAN PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FIRST RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO BEAUTIFY THEIR PROPERTIES AND IMPROVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY. WE WILL HAVE NO INCOME LIMITATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY. EVERY FIRST RESIDENT DISTRICT HOMEOWNER WILL BE ELIGIBLE. I URGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS.

ANOTHER MAJOR PROJECT WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF THE LONG AWAITED SOUTH WARD INDUSTRIAL PARK WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE OR TWO WAREHOUSE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS. WITH THE FISCAL BACKING OF THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY. WE

HAVE ASKED OUR NEWARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NEDC) TO STEP IN AND FINISH THIS DELAYED PROJECT.

ONCE THIS PROJECT IS UNDERWAY, WE WILL WITNESS THE CLEAN-UP OF A STRUGGLING NEIGHBORHOOD, NEW WAREHOUSES, NEW INFRASTRUCTURE, NEW INDUSTRY. NEW JOBS AND A NEW BEGINNING. A PRIVATE DEVELOPER ALSO WILL RENOVATE 1 GRUMMAN AND 2 KEER AVENUES IN 1994. AFTER OTHERS HAD FAILED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECTS.

AS PROOF THAT GOOD THINGS ARE WORTH WAITING FOR. I AM PLEASED TO LET THE DOOMSAYERS KNOW THAT OUR NEWARK LOEWS METROPLEX CINEMA ON SPRINGFIELD AVENUE AND BERGEN STREET HAS LASTED FOR MORE THAN FOUR DAYS. AND NOW, AFTER ELEVEN MONTHS. IS ONE OF THE FINEST THEATERS ANYWHERE. I WANT TO SALUTE EVERYONE INVOLVED IN PROVING THE CRITICS WRONG. AND. I CALL UPON EVERYONE TO SUPPORT OUR THEATERS THE LOEW'S AND THE ALL JERSEY MULTIPLEX CINEMAS. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO ATTEND THE MOVIES AND SEE LOCAL RESIDENTS WORKING AT A NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY.

TO FURTHER IMPROVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. WE HAVE BUILT SEVEN MINI MALLS IN FIVE WARDS. AND WE HAVE JUST APPROVED A MAJOR SHOPPING MALL IN THE EAST WARD. BUT. IN ADDITION TO BUILDING THESE SHOPPING CENTERS. WE MUST SHOP AND SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD MALLS THAT PROVIDE JOBS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS. WE SHOULD BE SHOPPING AT THE UNIVERSITY PLAZA MALL ON WEST MARKET STREET. CHANGED LOOK PLAZA WHICH WILL BE UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP ON IRVINE TURNER BOULEVARD. THE

BROADWAY MALL IN THE NORTH WARD, WEST SIDE HEIGHTS ON SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE, THE NEWARK/IRVINGTON PATHMARK MALL ON LYONS AVENUE, THE WEST MARKET MINI MALL NEXT TO GEORGIA KING VILLAGE AND THE NEVADA COURT MALL THAT HOUSES RUBENS SUPPER CLUB ON COURT STREET.

I AM NOT ASKING YOU TO STOP VISITING SUBURBAN SHOPPING CENTERS. SUCH AS WILLOWBROOK. WOODBRIDGE. LIVINGSTON OR THE SHORT HILLS MALLS. BUT. AT LEAST MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD MALLS SO THAT THEY CAN GROW AND PROSPER. CREATE MORE JOBS AND PAY MORE LOCAL TAXES. LET'S SUPPORT NEWARK FIRST.

AND WITH THIS IN MIND. I WISH TO SALUTE THE MOST REV. ARCHBISHOP THEODORE MCCARRICK FOR THE DECISION TO BUILD A NEW 13 MILLION DOLLAR ARCHDIOCESE HEADQUARTERS IN NEWARK. ADJACENT TO THE MAGNIFICENT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL. DESIGNED BY WORLD-FAMOUS ARCHITECT MICHAEL GRAVES. WE THANK THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT AND BELIEVE IN NEWARK. THIS COMMITMENT IS EVIDENT IN THE NEW SETON HALL LAW SCHOOL AND ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL. \$100 MILLION EXPANSION. THANK YOU ARCHDIOCESE.

WE ALSO WISH TO SALUTE THE BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD CORPORATION. WHICH HAS RELOCATED ITS CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS FROM FLORHAM PARK TO NEWARK. THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN NEWARK. THANK YOU FOR BRINGING JOBS BACK TO THE CITY OF NEWARK.

WE COMMEND THE NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAROLD LUCAS, CHAIRPERSON MS. GLORIA CARTWRIGHT AND ALL THE COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF FOR THE OUTSTANDING JOB THEY HAVE DONE IN TURNING AROUND THE NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY, WHICH RESULTED IN ITS REMOVAL FROM HUD'S LIST OF TROUBLED HOUSING AUTHORITIES. WE SALUTE THE AUTHORITY ALSO FOR SECURING 50 MILLION DOLLARS TO REHABILITATE ARCHBISHOP WALSH HOMES AND FOR MEETING THE COURT REQUIREMENTS OF BUILDING AND PLANNING FOR A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF NEW UNITS TO ALLOW FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE BEFORE MENTIONED. COLUMBUS HOMES. THANK YOU NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY! WE SALUTE THE NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION FOR RECEIVING 25 MILLION DOLLARS TO REHABILITATE TWO PUBLIC HIGHRISE BUILDINGS AT HAYES HOMES.

BUT MUCH OF THE TALK OF LATE IS ABOUT HORRIBLE WEATHER CONDITIONS. THIS WINTER HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON ONE OF THE HARDEST WORKING AND LOWEST PAID SEGMENTS OF OUR WORKFORCE. THE MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR SANITATION DIVISION. DURING THIS MONTH WHEN WE COMMEMORATE BLACK HISTORY. WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER THAT DR. KING GAVE HIS LIFE AFTER MARCHING ARM-IN-ARM WITH THE SANITATION WORKERS OF MEMPHIS. TENNESSEE. DR. KING WANTED THEM TO HAVE DECENT WAGES. EQUIPMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

CLEARLY. THEN. NEWARK'S SANITATION WORKERS DESERVE OUR SPECIAL SUPPORT. THEREFORE. I AM DIRECTING THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TO EXPLORE WAYS TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO ARE PAID THE LEAST FOR DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

AND OF COURSE WITH ALL OF THE RECENT BAD WEATHER CONSISTING OF RAIN, SNOW, SLEET, FREEZING RAIN, MORE SNOW AND LOW TEMPERATURES, WE HAVE STARTED TO REPAIR THOUSANDS OF POTHOLEs. AND IN 1994, WE WILL BE BUSY RESURFACING STREETS, UPGRADING WATER MAINS AND MAKING OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

WE ALSO WILL BE BUILDING: A NEW FIREHOUSE ON CLINTON AVENUE, A NEW IRONBOUND POOL, A NEW FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND A NEW BUILDING TO HOUSE OUR DIVISION OF TRAFFIC AND SIGNALS. ADDITIONALLY, WE WILL BE REHABILITATING THE JFK POOL TO MEET STATE DEPTH REQUIREMENTS, PUTTING A NEW ROOF ON THE MILLER STREET GARAGE AND COMPLETING THE EXTERIOR RENOVATION OF THE KRUEGER-SCOTT MANSION.

AS I CLOSE, I WISH TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL ISSUES OF PROPERTY TAXES AND WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR 1994. THESE ARE TWO CONCERNS THAT TOUCH THE HEART OF EVERY PROPERTY OWNER IN THE CITY OF NEWARK.

FIRST, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AFTER CRITICAL STUDY, REVIEW, A SECOND REVIEW AND CLOSE EXAMINATION OF OUR PROJECTED BUDGET, AND IF GOVERNOR WHITMAN DOES NOT REDUCE STATE AID, THERE WILL NO PROPERTY TAX INCREASE IN 1994. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS BY HOLDING THE LINE ON SPENDING. I HAVE WORKED TO SET AN EXAMPLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, AND I AM EVER MINDFUL THAT WE OWE YOU THE MOST SERVICES FOR YOUR TAX DOLLARS, NOT THE LEAST.

BUT I STILL HAVE SOME MORE GOOD NEWS. AS YOUR MAYOR I AM ALSO SENDING THIS SIGNED ORDINANCE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CALLING FOR A FIVE PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE 1994 WATER BILL CHARGES RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1994. WATER CUSTOMERS ALSO WILL NOTE A FIVE PERCENT REDUCTION IN THEIR SEWER BILLS IN 1994 DUE TO A DECREASE IN PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSION SPENDING. THEY (PVSC) FINALLY HAVE HEARD OUR VOICES FOR FISCAL RELIEF.

BY HOLDING THE LINE ON TAXES AND BY REDUCING WATER AND SEWER RATES, I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT NEWARKERS WILL HAVE THE LOWEST OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES OF ANY MUNICIPALITY IN ESSEX COUNTY THIS COMING YEAR.

AND, WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS WITHOUT BORROWING ANY MONIES FROM THE STATE, OR FLOATING ANY NEW BONDS, WHICH WOULD HAVE MORTGAGED YOUR FUTURE AND YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE. WE DID IT THE HARD WAY. BY REDUCED SPENDING, BY EXAMPLE, BY ELIMINATING DUPLICATION OF SERVICES, BY PRIVATIZATION, BY CONSOLIDATION, BY SOUND MANAGEMENT, BY DOING MORE WITH LESS AND BY RESPECTING YOU, THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK.

SO FOR 1994, THE MESSAGE IS A CLEAR ONE:

- * NO PROPERTY TAX INCREASE
- * LOWER WATER RATES
- * LOWER SEWER RATES
- * MORE POLICE

- * COLUMBUS HOMES IS COMING DOWN
- * WE ARE GOING SKATING
- * NEW HOUSING
- * LOW INTEREST HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS
- * BETTER DELIVERY OF SERVICES

AS I CLOSE, I AM REMINDED OF THE WORDS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN POET, ROBERT FROST, WHOM I QUOTED EARLIER, AND WHO WROTE SO ELOQUENTLY:

"THE ROAD IS LOVELY, DARK AND DEEP
AND I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP
AND MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP,
AND MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP."

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!